



PARTNERS IN CRIME PREVENTION

Events

Combating Domestic Violence in Maryland

Tenth Hospital-Based Domestic Violence Program Launched in Maryland

Fighting Sexual Assault on Maryland College Campuses

New Public Safety Laws In Effect as of October 1

Milestones

Maryland Marks 7th Consecutive Year of Record Crime Reductions

Help for Survivors of Homicide Victims

Maryland Human Trafficking Task Force Creates New Website

Baltimore City and Washington County To Begin Unique Warrant Intercept Program

Grants Awarded

Grants Awarded

Events

Combating Domestic Violence in Maryland

October is National Domestic Violence Awareness month, and it was fitting that on October 16, Governor O'Malley announced that Maryland has awarded \$2.3 million in grants to organizations that range from Garrett to Worcester Counties to help survivors of domestic violence reclaim their lives.... [Continue Reading](#)

Tenth Hospital-Based Domestic Violence Program Launched in Maryland

On August 11, Lt. Governor Anthony Brown was joined by U.S. Senators Barbara Mikulski and Ben Cardin, Congressman Dutch Ruppersberger, and State Police Superintendent Marcus Brown to announce funding for a hospital-based domestic violence program at the University of Maryland Medical Center (UMMC).... [Continue Reading](#)

Fighting Sexual Assault on Maryland College Campuses

By this time of year, college freshmen are busily engaged in their classes and their lives on college and university campuses. How safe are they from sexual assault?... [Continue Reading](#)

New Public Safety Laws In Effect as of October 1

Of the many new laws that went into effect on October first, several have a direct impact on the issue of combating domestic violence in Maryland.... [Continue Reading](#)

Milestones

Maryland Marks 7th Consecutive Year of Record Crime Reductions

The 2013 year-end crime data submitted to the FBI for its national Uniform Crime Report show that violent crime and property crime in Maryland have been driven down to their lowest rates since 1975.... [Continue Reading](#)

Help for Survivors of Homicide Victims

For the first time, Maryland organizations that work with crime victims are developing local and statewide programs for

the specific needs of survivors of homicide victims.... [Continue Reading](#)

Maryland Human Trafficking Task Force Creates New Website

The Maryland Human Trafficking Task Force, which was formed in 2007 as a collaborative effort with the U.S. Attorney's Office and other federal, state and local agencies, has created a new website:

www.mdhumantrafficking.org.... [Continue Reading](#)

Baltimore City and Washington County To Begin Unique Warrant Intercept Program

The Baltimore City Police Department and Washington County Sheriff's Office will have a new tool at hand in their continual drive to serve warrants effectively and safely.... [Continue Reading](#)

Grants Awarded

GOCCP has awarded \$3,403,682 in combined federal and state grants to organizations across Maryland serving victims of domestic violence.... [Continue Reading](#)

Events

Combating Domestic Violence in Maryland

October is National Domestic Violence Awareness month, and it was fitting that on October 16, [Governor O'Malley announced that Maryland has awarded \\$2.3 million in grants](#) to organizations that range from Garrett to Worcester Counties to help survivors of domestic violence reclaim their lives. The Governor made the announcement as he visited the YWCA of Annapolis and Anne Arundel County, one of the service providers receiving STOP VAWA grant funding. The visit was part of the '[Governing For Results](#)' series designed to promote the O'Malley-Brown Administration's [16 strategic goals](#).

The Governor was joined by Speaker Mike Busch, Delegate Pamela Beidle and local officials, a representative from the Maryland State Police, and service providers

who are on the front lines of the fight against domestic violence in Maryland. The federal STOP (Services, Training, Officers, Prosecutors) VAWA (Violence Against Women Act) grant program is designed to forge partnerships among police, prosecutors, judges, victim advocates, health care providers, faith leaders and other community entities. Here in Maryland, [STOP VAWA grants are funding 73 projects in every region of the state](#).

During the O'Malley-Brown Administration, GOCCP has administered more than \$68.5 million in grant funding to agencies addressing domestic violence and sexual assault. Since 2010, the Administration has more than doubled the number of hospital-based domestic violence programs. Currently, there are 10 hospital-based programs statewide.



Speaker Miller, Delegate Pamela Beidle, Molly Knipe, and Governor O'Malley.

Maryland also offers the [Victim Information & Notification Everyday \(VINE\) program](#), which allows individuals to check the status of an offender 24 hours, 7 days a week, and [Vine Protective Order \(VPO\)](#), a separate, critical service to victims of domestic violence. VPO automatically notifies the petitioner, victim advocates and law enforcement when a protective order has been served, which is one of the most dangerous times for victims, and keeps them informed throughout the process.

[This fall marked the 20th Anniversary of the passage of the Violence Against Women Act](#), landmark federal legislation that launched new programs designed to hold offenders accountable for their actions, and to help and support survivors of domestic violence.

“The Violence Against Women Act was a milestone for this country, and has been instrumental in Maryland’s programs to help survivors of domestic violence,” said Tammy Brown, GOCCP’s Executive Director. “Countless lives have been saved, and because of VAWA funding, many families have been able to get the treatment and support they need to heal after the trauma of domestic violence and sexual assault.”

[Return To Top](#)

Tenth Hospital-Based Domestic Violence Program Launched in Maryland

On August 11, Lt. Governor Anthony Brown was joined by U.S. Senators Barbara Mikulski and Ben Cardin, Congressman Dutch Ruppersberger, and State Police Superintendent Marcus Brown [to announce funding for a hospital-based domestic violence program at the University of Maryland Medical Center \(UMMC\)](#).

The announcement was made following a tour of the R Adams Cowley Shock Trauma Center and the UMMC Emergency Department. This gave officials a first-hand look at the life-saving work done by the staff at both facilities. The hospital-based domestic violence program at UMMC is called The Bridge Project. It is funded by a federal Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) grant administered by GOCCP, and a second grant from Verizon.



Lt. Governor Brown with Theresa DiNardo, RN, Nurse Manager, Kristen Ray, RN, and Ellen Plummer, RN during his tour of the R Adams Cowley Shock Trauma Center, UMMC.

“With the opening of The Bridge Project at the University of Maryland Medical Center, we’re taking another important step towards ending domestic violence in Baltimore and in neighborhoods throughout Maryland,” said Lt. Governor Brown. “Although we have driven down violent crime to the lowest levels in three decades, domestic violence continues to impact thousands of families throughout our state, and we will not rest until every Marylander is safe in their home and in their community.”

The Bridge Project serves patients who are treated at either the UMMC Emergency Department or the R Adams Cowley Shock Trauma Center, which treats critically injured patients who have been transported from all over Maryland. Under the program, patients identified as being victims of domestic violence are given specialized medical services, crisis counseling, safety planning, referrals to local agencies, and follow-up services. Specialists for The Bridge Project provide these services 24 hours a day, seven days a week, including holidays.

The program at UMMC is the latest step in a program initiative by [Governor O’Malley’s 2010 Executive Order](#) to expand domestic violence services at health care facilities across Maryland.

“Driving down violent crimes committed against women and children is one of this Administration’s top priorities,” said Tammy Brown, GOCCP’s Executive Director. “Hospital-based domestic violence programs are helping us accomplish this goal.”

The nine other hospital-based domestic violence programs include Mercy Medical Center, Sinai Hospital, Northwest Hospital and the Greater Baltimore Medical Center in the Baltimore area; Meritus Medical Center in Hagerstown; Howard County General Hospital in Columbia; Anne Arundel Medical Center; Prince George’s Hospital Center; and

MedStar St. Mary's Hospital in southern Maryland.

[Return To Top](#)

Fighting Sexual Assault on Maryland College Campuses



By this time of year, college freshmen are busily engaged in their classes and their lives on college and university campuses. How safe are they from sexual assault? The Center for Disease Control reports one in five women is sexually assaulted while in college and that the assault most often happens in her freshman or sophomore year. The White House Task Force to Protect Students From Sexual Assault, which issued a report last spring, is encouraging colleges and universities to take proactive measures to stop these assaults. As part of this effort, GOCCP has provided funding for the Maryland Coalition Against Sexual Assault (MCASA) to print and distribute 15,000 copies of a 12-page booklet called *Students & Sexual Assault: Legal and Practical Issues*. MCASA began distributing these

materials last month to 55 college and universities across the state.

“This booklet helps give students important information about legal options and access to justice,” said Lisae C. Jordan, the Executive Director and Counsel for MCASA. “We look forward to continuing to work with GOCCP to support survivors and prevent college sexual assault.”

The booklet is one step of a plan outlined by the White House Task Force to identify the scope of the problem on college campuses; help prevent campus sexual assault; help schools respond effectively when a student is assaulted; and improve and make more transparent the federal government’s enforcement methods.

“Preventing violence against women has been an important priority for the O’Malley-Brown Administration,” said Tammy Brown, the Executive Director of GOCCP. “Working to stop sexual violence on Maryland college campuses is a natural extension of that priority.”

Between 2006 and 2012, the Administration surpassed its goal of reducing violence against women and children by 25 percent. In 2013, the Governor [set a new goal](#) of reducing violent crimes against women and children by an additional 25 percent by the end of 2018.

[Return To Top](#)

New Public Safety Laws In Effect as of October 1

Of the many new laws that went into effect on October first, several have a direct impact on the issue of combating domestic violence in Maryland. These new laws include:

- Changing the standard of proof to allow Maryland Courts to issue a final peace or protective order from “clear and convincing evidence” to a “preponderance of the evidence” (House Bill 307/Senate Bill 333);
- Changing existing law to make it easier for survivors of domestic violence to obtain final permanent protective orders, and adding second-degree assault to the list of crimes that qualify a petitioner for a permanent final protective order (House Bill 309/Senate Bill 334);
- Increasing penalties for a person who commits a crime of violence in a residence in the presence of a child who is at least two years old (House Bill 306/Senate Bill 337);
- Ensuring that protective and peace orders will remain in effect when victims file for extensions (House Bill

647/Senate Bill 434); and

- Allowing Courts to make violations for failure to comply with an interim, temporary or final protective order a prior offense for the purpose of determining penalties for a second subsequent offense for failing to comply with an interim, temporary or final peace order (House Bill 352/Senate Bill 369).

Other public safety laws that went into effect October first include:

- A measure designed to combat human trafficking and other sex crimes against children by creating a 25-year felony for perpetrators who persuade or entice children under 16 from their home, and then secrete and harbor them for the purpose of any sex crime (House Bill 701/Senate Bill 454);
- A new law that establishes a State Government Human Trafficking Address Confidentiality Program similar to the State confidentiality program for domestic violence victims (House Bill 559/Senate Bill 818);
- A measure that expands the definition of ‘a person in position of authority’ to close significant gaps in laws that address persons in authority who sexually exploit teenagers in their care (House Bill 781/Senate Bill 460);
- A new law that provides additional time for victims of child abuse and child sex abuse to file claims for criminal injuries compensation (House Bill 1244/Senate Bill 830);
- Prohibitions and increased penalties for persons attempting to deliver a telecommunication device, including chargers and SIM cards, to an inmate in a place of confinement (House Bill 175/Senate Bill 206);
- A measure that allows the electronic issuance of a search warrant by fax or email and allows the judge and applicant to discuss the warrant over the telephone or by video conference (House Bill 1109);
- A measure that provides a specified person who seeks medical assistance for a person experiencing an alcohol-or drug-related overdose immunity from civil liability or criminal prosecution in limited circumstances (House Bill 416);
- Prohibitions against a person from threatening to commit a crime of violence that would place five or more people at substantial risk of death or serious physical injury (Senate Bill 223);
- A measure that mandates certain penalties for third or subsequent offense for driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs (House Bill 957/Senate Bill 710);
- A new law that establishes that the statute of limitations for the prosecution of using a firearm in the commission of a crime of violence or a felony is the same as the statute of limitations for the underlying crime, rather than one year (House Bill 286/Senate Bill 248); and
- A measure that establishes home invasion as one type of first-degree burglary, and increases the maximum penalty for breaking and entering a home with the intent to commit a crime of violence (House Bill 807).



[Return To Top](#)

Milestones

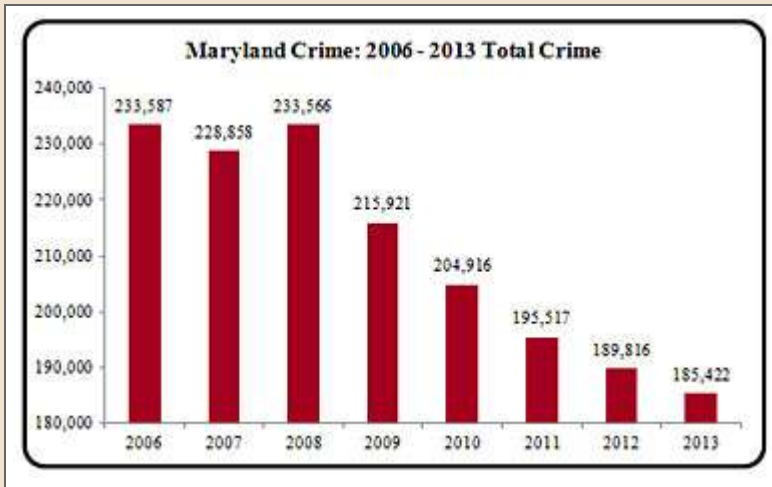
Maryland Marks 7th Consecutive Year of Record Crime Reductions

The 2013 year-end crime data submitted to the FBI for its national Uniform Crime Report show that violent crime and property crime in Maryland have been driven down to their lowest rates since 1975. Governor O’Malley credited the men and women in law enforcement and criminal justice agencies across the state [for achieving this historic accomplishment](#).

Statistics show that total incidents of crime and the total crime rate in Maryland are both at their lowest levels ever reported since 1975. The total number of rapes was driven down by 5.4 percent in 2013 compared to the year before.

“These crime reductions are the product of increased partnerships between law enforcement agencies within Maryland and our neighboring states,” said Tammy Brown, GOCCP Executive Director. “Over the past seven and a half years, the O’Malley-Brown Administration has forged technological advances and encouraged creative collaborations that have allowed professionals in every level of government to work together to achieve these results.”

For further details, see [GOCCP’s analysis of the 2013 UCR report for Maryland](#).

[Return To Top](#)


Help for Survivors of Homicide Victims

For the first time, Maryland organizations that work with crime victims are developing local and statewide programs for the specific needs of survivors of homicide victims. In this, its first year, GOCCP provided nearly \$500,000 in state funding to seven private non-profit organizations in Baltimore City, Baltimore County, and Prince George's County. These service providers are establishing and expanding new programs that provide counseling, legal, mental health and advocacy services to many families and survivors of homicide victims in their communities. Specialized programs are offered for children and teenagers who have lost loved ones to homicide, and for child survivors of intimate partner homicide.

The new statewide program for Survivors of Homicide Victims is a follow up to Maryland's repeal of the death penalty. Governor O'Malley signed House Bill 355 into law on April 14, 2014, establishing the program to provide services to this group of crime victims.

"With these funds, Maryland will be able to offer specialized support, therapeutic programs, and other services to survivors of homicide," said Tammy Brown, GOCCP's Executive Director. "These individuals and families struggle with tremendous loss, trauma and grief after losing loved ones to violence. As a community, it is our duty to be as compassionate and helpful as we can be to alleviate their suffering."

[Return To Top](#)

Maryland Human Trafficking Task Force Creates New Website

The Maryland Human Trafficking Task Force, which was formed in 2007 as a collaborative effort with the U.S. Attorney's Office and other federal, state and local agencies, has created a new website:

www.mdhumantrafficking.org

Amanda Rodriguez, Manager of Domestic Violence & Human Trafficking Policy for GOCCP, says this website will act as a 'one-stop shop' for information about human trafficking in Maryland for law enforcement, service providers and the general public.

"This website provides accurate information regarding both how human trafficking is affecting Maryland, and how Maryland is responding to human trafficking," said Rodriguez. "It provides information about the state task force and other regional task forces, and how Maryland agencies and nonprofits are working to restore victims and find and prosecute



traffickers.”

GOCCP has been spearheading a Governor’s Conference on Combating Human Trafficking in Maryland for the past three years and is planning a fourth Conference in Spring 2015. Rodriguez says that so far this year, as many as 100 survivors have been identified and given services, including health care, therapy, housing and education.

[Return To Top](#)

Baltimore City and Washington County To Begin Unique Warrant Intercept Program

The Baltimore City Police Department and Washington County Sheriff’s Office will have a new tool at hand in their continual drive to serve warrants effectively and safely. That’s because Governor O’Malley has signed two pieces of legislation that would set up Warrant Intercept Programs in both jurisdictions.

The Maryland Income Tax Refund Warrant Intercept Program has been used with great success in Anne Arundel County for the past two years. It works by matching people who had outstanding warrants with their Maryland tax refunds. Instead of getting a refund check, these individuals received a letter from the Maryland Comptroller’s Office, telling him or her to contact their local law enforcement office. Once they were served with their outstanding warrants and the warrants were closed, they got their tax refund check.



In Anne Arundel County, the Sheriff’s Office was able to quickly and peacefully close 295 warrants through the Warrant Intercept Program this past spring. In Washington County, Sheriff Doug Mullendore is looking forward to starting the program next year.

“This program will allow us to concentrate on serving felony warrants, and warrants for violent offenses,” said Sheriff Mullendore. “The risk to our Warrant Task Force will be minimized by allowing offenders to turn themselves into us. We would not have to confront them at their place of residence where they have the upper hand, making it riskier to our deputies to serve the warrant.”

“This is an efficient and innovative way to reduce outstanding warrants in Baltimore,” said Police Commissioner Anthony Batts. “It will greatly decrease the amount of open warrants in the city while remaining fiscally responsible. This program will only help us in creating a safer Baltimore.”

“One of our core crime fighting strategies has been to enhance warrant service,” said Ed Parker, GOCCP’s Deputy Director. “Law enforcement agencies throughout Maryland have used grant funds from our office to arrest thousands of people with open warrants, many of them violent repeat offenders. Despite these best efforts, we struggle to keep pace with the issuance of new warrants. This law will be another tool to help us reduce the number of open warrants, reduce crime, improve officer safety and free up police resources to locate and apprehend other, and potentially more dangerous, offenders.”

[Return To Top](#)

Grants Awarded

GOCCP has awarded \$3,403,682 in combined federal and state grants to organizations across Maryland serving victims of domestic violence. The primary purpose of the programs is to provide safe refuge and support services to victims of domestic violence and their children. Services may include a 24-hour hotline, safe accommodations and board, therapeutic counseling, legal services, court accompaniment, community awareness activities and abuser intervention services. The funds are awarded under the Maryland Domestic Violence Program (DOMV) and the US Department of Health & Human Services, Family Violence Prevention and Services Act (FVPS).

GOCCP has awarded \$1.74 million in state funding to rape crisis centers, nonprofit and local government organizations across Maryland that provide services to victims of sexual assault. The Sexual Assault/Rape Crisis Program (SARC) supports counseling and other services to meet the specific needs of victims of rape and sexual assault and their family members affected by the abuse. Services may include a 24-hour hotline, counseling, medical accompaniment, and assistance in accessing and using other support services, such as legal assistance.

GOCCP has awarded \$2.3 million in grants under the federal Violence Against Women Act (VAWA). [Grants from the STOP VAWA Formula Grant Program are funding 73 projects in every region of the state.](#)

GOCCP and the Maryland State Board of Victim Services have awarded more than a million dollars to nonprofit and government agencies that provide services to victims of crime. [The Maryland Victims of Crime Fund \(MVOC\) grants](#) serve crime victims in communities in every jurisdiction in the state.

In October, more than \$300,000 was awarded in federal grant funds to organizations that investigate and prosecute cases of child abuse and neglect. [The funding from the Children's Justice Act Program](#) provided grants to 18 organizations across Maryland.

GOCCP has awarded nearly a quarter of a million dollars in state funding to 21 Child Advocacy Centers (CACs) around the state. The funds are to be used to supplement, but not supplant, money the CACs receive from other sources. These funds support law enforcement, child protective services, social workers, and others who work to protect Maryland's vulnerable child victims of crime and abuse.

For up-to-date announcements on grant awards, please check our [Press Release webpage](#). To find Notices of Funds Availability (NOFAs) that are currently available, please [look at the bottom of our website homepage](#).

[A complete listing of a wide variety of federal and state funds that make resources available for public safety projects across Maryland can be found here.](#)

[Return To Top](#)